



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2011 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Lincoln, Neb., March 31, 2011 -- Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage planted to corn, sugarbeets and sunflowers, while decreasing acreage devoted to soybeans, hay, sorghum, dry edible beans, oats, and wheat (sown last fall), according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 9.5 million acres for all purposes in 2011, up 4 percent from 2010 and the largest acreage since 1933.

Soybean producers intend to plant 5.05 million acres, down 2 percent from 2010 but second largest only to last year's record high.

Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.5 million acres, down 6 percent from a year earlier. This is the smallest winter wheat acreage planted in Nebraska since records began in 1909.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 135,000 acres, down 20,000 acres or 13 percent from last year and the smallest acreage since 1930.

Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 125,000 acres, down 26 percent from 2010. Oat planting intentions, at 85,000 acres, are down 5,000 acres from 2010 and the lowest in over 100 years. Sunflower planting intentions, at 64,000 acres, are up 2,000 acres from last year and sugarbeet plantings, at 55,000 acres, are up 10 percent from a year ago.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.6 million, is expected to be down 3 percent from last year.

These acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in finalizing their acreage plans for 2011. Actual area planted may vary from that indicated due to farmer's final assessment of planting options, effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in price expectations for the coming crop year.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/ProsPlan//2010s/2011/ProsPlan-03-31-2011.pdf>

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